

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the TITLE beginning at page 1, line 1, with the following rewritten

TITLE:

B-3 LENS DEVICE FOR A ~~AND ELECTRONIC CAMERA WITH A STEPPING MOTOR DRIVE~~
OPTIMIZED FOR SPEED AND POWER SAVING ~~PROVIDED WITH LENS DEVICE~~

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 1, line 23, with the following paragraph:

B-3 The conventional cameras have been devised from various aspects in ~~an effort~~ efforts to realize both ~~the a~~ a compact camera body and advanced functions at the same time. For example, cameras having a ~~so-called~~ collapsible zoom lens unit or the like have ~~prevailed generally~~ become prevalent. Specifically, when such a camera is unused, an imaging lens barrel accommodating a plurality of lens frames that hold an imaging lens (or a zoom lens barrel when the imaging lens is a zoom lens) is stowed in a camera body. The camera thus becomes compact enough to be portable. When the camera is used, the lens barrel is thrust in front of the camera body. The plurality of lens frames in the lens barrel ~~is~~ are moved to predetermined positions, whereby a power variation action (zooming action) or an automatic focusing (AF) action is executed.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 5, line 15, with the following paragraph:

B-3 A zooming action requires a relatively large amount of power and is frequently utilized during execution of the imaging action. Once a driving current needed for achieving the zooming action can be minimized, ~~a~~ great result of power saving is ~~expected~~ realized. Minimization of the driving current needed for achieving the zooming action during execution of the imaging action ~~can be said to be~~ is what has especially been demanded in recent years.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 7, line 6, with the following paragraph:

B-3 The conditions for driving including a driving speed at which lens frames or the like are driven ~~has~~ have a close relation to ~~a the~~ driving source such as a motor. For controlling the driving source in strict conformity with the conditions for driving, the driving source must be limited to some type. Normally, as the driving source for driving lens frames in a camera or the

like, a stepping motor obviating the necessity of an encoder and other members has been widely adopted in the past.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 10, line 25, with the following paragraph:

However, when a conventional electronic camera or the like adopts the contrast focusing method, as long as a displacement of the front lens frame caused by an extraneous force is limited, there is no obstacle to an imaging action. The necessity of the encoder is therefore obviated. However, when the stepping motor is used as a driving source for moving lens frames, the magnitude of displacement of the front lens frame that is of a certain level or more cannot be corrected unless the lens frames are returned to their reference positions (home positions). When a photographer uses a camera to execute out an imaging action, the front lens frame out of all the lens frames included in the camera may be displaced largely to a larger extent. In this case, the photographer may continue imaging without being aware of the fact that the front lens frame is displaced. This will result results in certain problems as troubles described below.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 12, line 9, with the following paragraph:

The present invention has been devised in an effort efforts to overcome the above troubles problems.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 13, line 14, with the following paragraph:

The fourth object of the present invention is to provide an electronic camera capable of producing and recording motion picture data and still picture data. Specifically, a zooming action to be executed as part of a motion picture imaging action and a zooming action to be executed as part of a still picture imaging action can be driven and controlled in different driving modes. Consequently, it can be deterred that recording of noise components, including a noise sound caused by a motor or the like during driving for zooming while executing are recorded simultaneously during execution of the motion picture imaging action can be prevented. Moreover, vibrations can be suppressed. Thus, high-quality motion picture data can be recorded. Besides, still picture data can be recorded properly.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 19, line 18, with the following paragraph:

Furthermore, according to the present invention, there is provided an electronic camera capable of producing and recording motion picture data and still picture data. Driving and controlling is performed in different driving modes between a zooming action to be executed as part of a motion picture imaging action and a zooming action to be executed as part of a still picture imaging action. It ~~can~~ is therefore ~~deterred~~ so that noise components including a noise sound ~~uttered~~ emitted by a motor or the like during driving for zoom is prevented from being ~~are~~ recorded ~~simultaneously~~ during the execution of the motion picture imaging action. Besides, vibrations can be suppressed. This results in an electronic camera capable of recording excellent motion picture data and properly executing an imaging and recording action for producing still picture data.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 21, line 23, with the following paragraph:

An embodiment of the present invention will be described below. Herein, an electronic camera (hereinafter called simply a camera) designed to electrically produce an image signal by utilizing an imaging device or the like is ~~taken for instance~~ utilized for the following description.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 23, line 8, with the following paragraph:

On the other hand, the image signal output from the A/D conversion circuit 4 is output to an image processing circuit 13 that is an image processing means. Various kinds of image processing is performed on the image signal, and then temporarily stored in the memory 14 such as a buffer memory. The image signal stored in the memory 14 is output to a display means such as liquid crystal display (hereinafter simply an LCD) via a display circuit 15 if necessary. An image is then displayed on the display means. Moreover, the image signal is output to a compression and decompression circuit 19. After being compressed in a manner suitable for recording, the image signal is output to a recording medium 18 that is a recording means, such as, a memory card or flash memory via an interface (I/F) 17. The image signal is recorded in it. The image signal recorded in a compressed form in the recording medium 18 is read into the compression and decompression circuit 19 via the I/F 17 in response to a predetermined instruction signal sent from the group of operation switches. The image signal is then

PS decompressed in a manner suitable for display, and then read into the memory 14. The image signal is output to the LCD 16 for display via the display circuit 15.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 50, line 3, with the following paragraph:

PS Owing to the driving and controlling, a low-pitch noise and ~~few~~ little vibrations can be realized during execution of the motion picture imaging action. ~~It can be deterred that~~ Deterioration of the image quality of acquired motion picture data deteriorates or because of noise components including a noise sound ~~are~~ contained in voice data being recorded simultaneously with the motion picture data is prevented. Moreover, for executing the still picture imaging action, driving for zooming can be achieved more reliably and quickly. Consequently, excellent maneuverability can be ensured.
